

~~SECRET~~**Brazil-Guyana Border**

155. Prospectors and diamond smugglers traditionally have moved quite freely across portions of the Brazil-Guyana border, where occasionally there are illegal border jumpers—such as the fugitives who fled from the abortive Rupununi uprising in Guyana to safety in Brazil. Apart from relatively minor traffic, however, there is probably little illegal surface movement between the two countries, for transport facilities are too meager to sustain major flows of contraband. Small quantities of high value goods, however, are probably smuggled across the border by air.

156. The border is composed of two main segments. One segment runs essentially east to west, between the headwaters of the Courantyne and Takatu rivers. The other segment extends south to north, down the Takatu and up its tributary, the Ireng, to the Pakaraima Mountains. The first segment lies in a completely isolated forest region, almost totally uninhabited and with no transportation facilities whatsoever. The heads of launch navigation for streams flowing southward from the frontier to the Amazon lie hundreds of miles away from the border in most cases. The headwaters of the Essequibo, New River, and Courantyne provide difficult approaches for small canoes to the Guyana side of the border. There are no roads, airfields, or sizable villages.

157. By comparison, the zone along the part of the border formed by the Takatu and Ireng rivers is fairly well settled. This section of the boundary runs mostly through savanna. On the Guyana side is the cattle-ranching Rupununi district which includes the town of Lethem and dozens of small Amerindian villages, all connected by a network of trails, tracks, and a few jeepable roads. On the Brazilian side, where cattle raising is also important, there are numerous small settlements. Boa Vista on the Rio Branco, about 45 miles from the border, is by far the largest place in the entire frontier zone; it has a population of more than 25,000. The Rio Branco is navigable to launches for a short distance upstream from Boa Vista. A road connects Boa Vista with the town of Caracará and serves as a bypass to a bad stretch of rapids on the river. Many trails radiate from Boa Vista, providing access to and across the border and interconnecting with the road and trail network of the Rupununi district.

158. In addition to cattle ranching, the border zone is noted for the diamonds that are found in the sands and gravels of its rivers and creeks. The frontier is said to be so "wide open" that prospectors work either side of the Ireng with little regard for official approval or permission. Brazilian "pirate" buyers make the rounds of diamond workings of the Guyana side of the border, purchasing stones and then smuggling them back into Brazil, sometimes along special trails

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MI  
Brazil-Bahia

London, England. January 24, 1947.

VIA AIR POUCHUNRESTRICTED

Despatch No. 3457

Subject: Transmission of Treaty Series No. 51 (1946)  
Exchange of Notes between His Majesty's  
Government in the United Kingdom and the  
Government of Brazil.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE TREATY SECTION OF THE DIVISION  
OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

VITAL STORAGE

1 copy of Treaty Series  
REF

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith five copies of  
Treaty Series No. 51 (1946) Exchange of Notes between His  
Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Govern-  
ment of Brazil, signed at Rio de Janeiro, March 15, 1940.

The information required by the Department's instruction  
of January 27, 1941 (Diplomatic Serial No. 3329) is set out  
below:

(1) Country, title, and date and place of signing:

Exchange of Notes between His Majesty's Govern-  
ment in the United Kingdom and the Government of  
Brazil, signed at Rio de Janeiro, March 15, 1940.

(2) Date of ratification or approval by the legislature  
or executive, and whether or not with reservation:

No mention of ratification.

(3) Date of exchange of ratification:

No mention of ratification.

(4) Date of entry into effect:

March 15, 1940.

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London, Despatch No. 3457, January 24, 1947

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(5) Term or duration as provided in text of agreement:

Not applicable.

(6) Notice required for termination:

Not applicable.

(7) Date of denunciation:

Not applicable.

(8) Whether or not treaty modifies, renews or replaces any previous treaties and agreements:

Approves the work of the Commissioners as set forth in their General Report in accordance with the Treaty signed on 22nd April 1926 and the Protocol signed in London on 18th March, 1930.

(9) Text and reference sources:

Text transmitted herewith as received from His Majesty's Stationery Office.

Respectfully yours,  
For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

Alexander B. Toth  
Publications Procurement Officer.

Enclosure:

Five copies of Treaty Series No. 51 (1946) Exchange of Notes between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Brazil.

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